

region is the territory of the 'uncontacted' *Nahua* and *Kugapakori* tribes. The *Nahua* lost 50 per cent of its population after exposure to disease during preliminary exploration for the project by Shell in the 1980s. Construction on the project is expected to start anytime this year.

## KENYA

### *Rhinos poached*

Kenya's black rhinos have been safe from poachers for eight years, but the carcasses of four of the endangered animals, stripped of their horns, were recently found in the Tsavo National Park. Isolated poaching incidents have been reported outside the country's national parks, but this was the first time in eight years that poachers had dared to kill inside a protected area. The country's black rhino population has fallen to 460 today from about 20,000 in 1970. Viable populations of the animals are now only found in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa. There have been fears of an upswing in elephant poaching too, as the Kenyan Wildlife Service is facing a severe cash crunch due to the loss of tourism revenue following the World Trade Centre attacks in September 2001.

## BRAZIL

### *Moratorium on mahogany!*

In a positive development in the campaign to save the Amazon, Brazil's government has

announced a moratorium on all mahogany logging and trade. Previously, mahogany logging was allowed in 12 areas, but the ban came about after widespread irregularities in sawmills and timber companies were detected. The government also said that from now on certification would be required to ensure that all logging was done in sustainably managed forest areas. However, the certification procedures and standards or the timetable for its implementation have not been revealed. The ban comes after years of efforts by Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and other organisations to expose the illegal mahogany industry in Brazil, which is responsible for thousands of kilometres of illegal roads that have opened pristine forest areas to degradation.

### *38 million animals a year!*

Brazil's first report on animal trafficking has showed that an estimated 38 million animals are extracted from the country's forests every year. The report by the National Network Against the Trafficking of Wild Animals estimated that the traffic in endangered Brazilian animals amounted to US \$1 billion per year. The wildlife trade, worth \$20 billion annually, is the world's third largest trans-boundary crime, after the arms and drugs trade. Less than half of one per cent of the trade is intercepted by police.



## BELIZE

### *Chalillo project cleared*

The government of Belize has approved the construction of a huge hydroelectric dam in a rich rainforest area. The Chalillo dam will drown 1,100 ha. in the Macal and Raspaculo valleys. The submergence area is one of the only known nesting areas for the endangered Scarlet Macaw, whose population in the country has fallen to less than 200. Jaguars and tapirs also roam the area.

## ANTARCTICA

### *Giant 'bergs too big for penguins*

A combination of massive icebergs and extensive sea ice in Antarctica's Ross Sea is preventing entire colonies of penguins, numbering hundreds of thousands, from returning to their breeding areas on the shore. This could lead to a sharp fall in the population. Adelie Penguins, in particular, will be worst hit, according to researchers of the National Science Foundation. The Adelie colony at Cape Royds is the world's southernmost and is one of those expected to 'fail' this year. A colony of Emperor Penguins at Cape Crozier also will not breed. The formation of unusually extensive sea ice this year has lengthened the distance between the breeding sites and the birds' food source – the open sea, forcing the birds to walk over ice rather than swim to their hunting grounds. A penguin's average walking speed is between 1 to 1.8 km. per hour

while the ice shelf off McMurdo Station, for example, extends 33 nautical miles!

## ECUADOR

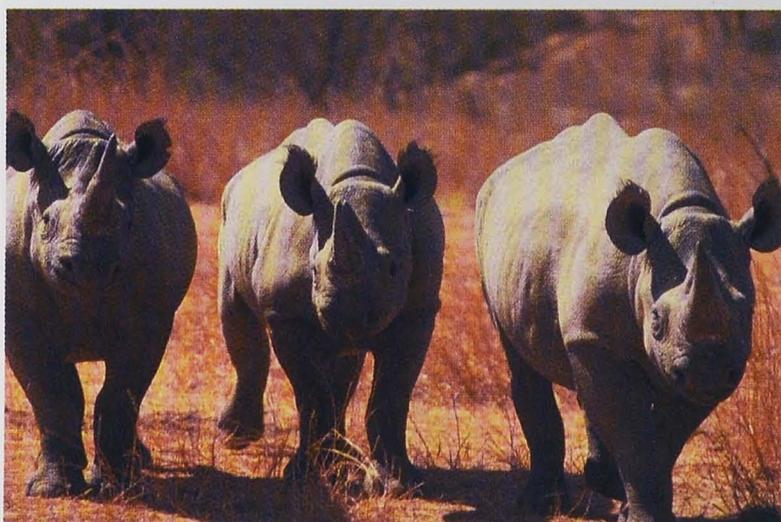
### *Galapagos protection increased*

In December 2001, UNESCO designated almost 85,000 sq. km. of the seas around the Galapagos Islands a world heritage site. The islands are famous for their giant tortoises and iguanas, which inspired Charles Darwin's revolutionary theories. The move comes almost a year after the Galapagos miraculously escaped from a massive oil slick, caused by the tanker Jessica which sank and spilled 160,000 gallons of oil into the seas in January 2001. The islands were saved as currents carried the slick out to sea. There are also fears that the number of tourists attracted to the Galapagos is exceeding the islands' carrying capacity.

## CAMBODIA

### *Poaching rampage*

Between May 2000 and October 2001, 225 large mammals were poached in just three of Cambodia's 24 provinces. This includes 26 elephants, 20 tigers, three leopards and 47 bears. Estimates put the number of wild elephants still surviving in Cambodia at between 300 and 600, while the tiger population is lower. Biologists fear that at present killing rates, many of the larger species will cease to be viable in three to five years.



# Call of the wild Sanctuary

February 2002

A S I A



### On the cover

The Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena*, at its nest hole – yet another creature that benefits from tiger protection.

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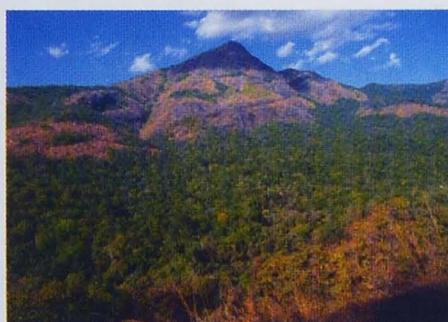
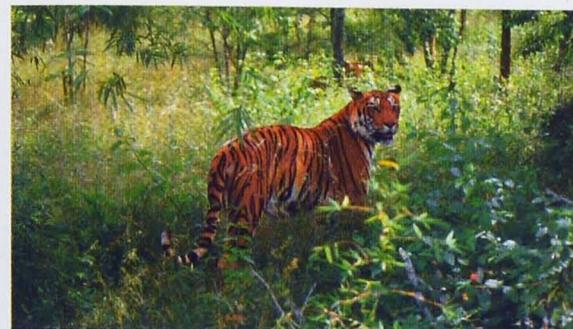
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## 42 Cover Story Saving the Tiger

As part of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities, *Sanctuary* invited experts, forest officers and activists to Mumbai in December 2001 to consider the tiger's future. The concerns and solutions that emerged form the basis for this preliminary 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats' (SWOT) analysis of the movement to save the tiger.



## 22 The Untamed Anamalai

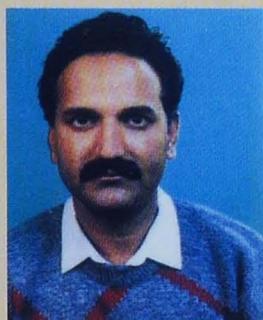
T.N. Khan, S.K. Mukhopadhyay, K.K. Banerjee and H. Banerjee write of the Anamalai mountains in south India, home of the tiger, Nilgiri langur and liontailed macaque. The authors have spent many years in this section of the Western Ghats and write with passion about this unique ecosystem and the need to protect it from the dangers of unregulated tourism, hydroelectric projects and poachers.



## 32 Kumbhalgarh – Wolf Country!

K. Rajpal Singh is one of Rajasthan's foremost photographers. The forests of Kumbhalgarh have long been a favourite haunt of his. In this piece, he shares some of his more memorable experiences. Named after the fort built by Maharaja Kumbha in 1458, this former tiger stronghold now provides plenty of opportunity to observe the rare grey wolf, occasional leopard, Grey Jungle Fowl and a host of other wildlife.

## Contributors



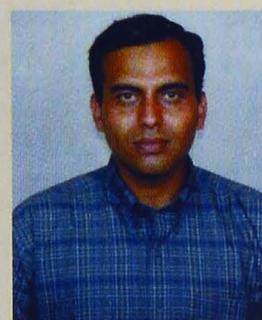
### K. Rajpal Singh

An avid conservationist and photographer, he is closely associated with the wildlife heritage of Rajasthan. **32**



### Arun P. Singh

An entomologist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, he is working for the preservation of the Himalayan ecosystem. **38**



### M.K.S. Pasha

A conservation biologist, he is the Programme Officer for the Wildlife Trust of India's Rapid Action Project. **60**



### Valmik Thapar

Writer and tiger expert, he has been battling to save the tiger and its forest home for over two decades. **72**